

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Water Rights Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. Applicant/Contact name and address: **Robert Bryant**
5951 116th Avenue SE
Bellevue WA 98006
2. Type of action: **Application for Beneficial Water Use No. 30024820-411**
Bryant No. 3 Subdivision
3. Water source name: **Groundwater**
4. Location affected by action: **Two wells in the SWNWNE of Sec 7, Twp 10N, Rge 3W,**
Lewis and Clack County
5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and objectives:
This Application proposes to appropriate water from two groundwater wells. The wells are located in the SWNWNE of Sec 7, Twp 10N, Rge 3W, Lewis and Clark County. The wells are referred to as #1 and #2. Both wells are approximately 180 feet in depth. Well #1 will produce 150 GPM and well #2 will produce 60 GPM. Water will be diverted at maximum rate of 150 GPM up to 50.9 acre-foot per year.

The water would be used for multiple domestic (56 Homes) from January 1 through December 31, lawn and garden irrigation on 18.66 acres (.33 acres per home) from June 15, through October 14. Municipal (two lots) from January 1 through December 31, lawn and garden (two lots of .09 acres per lot) from June 15 through October 14. The place of use is the Bryant NO. 3 Subdivision located in the N2N of Sec 7, Twp 10N, Rge 3W, Lewis and Clark County.

Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)

Part II. Environmental Review**1. Environmental Impact Checklist:**

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Water quantity - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

Determination: **No significant impact.**

This proposed project would not affect chronically dewatered streams as identified by DFWP: it does not seek to develop water from a surface source.

Water quality - Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

Determination: **No significant impact.**

This proposed project would not affect water quality in perennial streams. It is unknown at this time whether there would be an impact to groundwater quality.

Groundwater - Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

Determination: **No significant Impact.**

Accepted standard tests conducted by the applicant indicate that water is available in the quantities proposed for withdrawal by the two wells.

DIVERSION WORKS - Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

Determination: **No significant impact.**

This project will have a slight impact to the area surrounding the immediate drilling site. Disturbance of the native grass will be restored in time.

UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Endangered and threatened species - Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."

Determination: **No significant impact.**

Although deer, and other small mammals frequent the area, the proposed subdivision is not located in an area with high wildlife resource value.

Wetlands - Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.

Determination: There appears to be a wetland/riparian type area in the SE 1/4 of Sec 7. The applicant has addressed the potential draw down in Ten Mile Creek. The wetland/riparian area lay directly next to Ten Mile Creek. With the draw down of Ten Mile Creek, there are potential effects to the wetland/riparian are.

Ponds - For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.

Determination: **No pond development is involved in this project**

GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE - Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.

Determination: **No significant impact.**

According to the soil survey of the Helena valley, the chief type of soil in the area is Thess Loam, which is described as having a surface layer 4 inches thick. The underlying material is a very light sandy loam. Below this is to a depth of 60 inches is a light gravel.

VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS - Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.

Determination: **No significant impact.**

The vegetative cover in the proposed area is native grasses. The grasses will be disturbed during construction. The disturbed area will eventually be lawn or landscaping in the subdivision.

AIR QUALITY - Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

Determination: **No significant impact.**

There may be deterioration of air quality due to the increased traffic within the subdivision. In addition, if any of the homes have wood burning stoves/fireplaces that are burned improperly, there may be noticeable or objectionable odors that could affect air quality and / or be offensive to other property owners. This impact would be temporary during the winter months when there is an air inversion.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Determination: **No significant impact.**

This project is located on private land that has been farmed for many years.

DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY - Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.

Determination: **No additional impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed were identified.**

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS - Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

Determination: **No significant impact.**

This project is consistent with the existing development in the surrounding area. There are similar subdivisions both north and south of the area to be developed.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES - Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

Determination: **No significant impact.**

This project will not impact access to or the quality of recreational and wildlife activities. There are no wilderness areas adjacent to the proposed project.

HUMAN HEALTH - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: **No significant impact.**

There is potential for drinking water contamination with a relatively small area and a large number of individual septic systems. The septic systems will need to be approved by the county as well as DEQ.

PRIVATE PROPERTY - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes ___ No **X**. If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

Determination:

OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

Impacts on:

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? **No significant impact.**
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? **No significant impact.**
This subdivision should increase local and state tax base.
- (c) Existing land uses? **No significant impact.**
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? **No significant impact.**
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? **No significant impact.**
- (f) Demands for government services? **No significant impact.**
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? **No significant impact.**
- (h) Utilities? **No significant impacts.**
- (i) Transportation? **No significant impacts.**
- (j) Safety? **No significant impacts.**
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances?

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:

Secondary Impacts: **No significant impacts.**

There are subdivisions immediately to the north and south of the proposed project. This project appears to be similar in size to the existing developments. The west boundary of the area is McHugh Drive and on the east North Montana.

Cumulative Impacts: There is substantial development in the area. A majority of the development are homes with individual wells as a water source. The wells for this project will most likely rely on groundwater from the alluvial aquifer or underlying fractured bedrock.

3. Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures: **The water right permit, if issued would be subject to all prior existing water rights in the source of supply. The applicant will also have to provide an adequate augmentation plan, to replace losses to surface water in the area.**
4. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider: **If the application were not granted, the individual lot owners would have to construct their own wells. The result could be a greater potential for an adverse impact to water quality and quantity.**

PART III. Conclusion

1. Preferred Alternative: **Issue the permit as applied for by the applicant, or in some modified form considered reasonable.**
2. Comments and Responses: **Comments and responses were compiled by Schwarz Architecture & Engineering and can be viewed at the Helena regional office.**
3. Finding:
Yes ☐ No ☒ **Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?**

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: Matt Murphy

Title: Water Resource Specialist

Date: December 12, 2006